

Western's safety record recognized

Reputation is everything, and Western has a good one when it comes to industry safety.

The American Public Power Association announced recently that Western once again took second prize in its 1999 Safety Contest. Official recognition will come with award presentations during the 2000 Engineering and Operations Technical Conference in Anaheim, Calif., April 11.

According to **Doris Martinez**, Western safety specialist, this is the ninth time in 11 years the agency has been honored.

"It's nice to compare us with other utilities that have the same exposures that we do," said Martinez. "And when we score high in the industry, we're doing pretty well. It speaks highly of the organization and our employees."

Western scored an incident rate of 2.4.

Martinez explained that this fig-

ure is determined by the number of incidents within a certain time frame, multiplying it by a "normalizing number" of 200,000 (representing 100 employees

working for one year) and then dividing by the number of hours worked per time frame—normally one year. The average incident rate for the electric utility industry is 3.5.

In announcing the award, APPA

Director of Engineering Services Michael Hyland stated that "a record such as yours is indicative of high standards in the workplace and vital to safe and productive utility operations. This award is a public acknowledgment of the safe practices your utility exhibited throughout the year."

Despite this achievement and the recognition it brings Western, Administrator **Mike Hacskeylo** cautioned employees not to let down their guard.

"Even though our record is much better than the industry average, we cannot become complacent about safety," he said. "We need to continue to focus on safe job practices in the workplace."

